

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 070250Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8083
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CE, SV

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT THREATENS TO PNG VISITING SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS

1. SUMMARY: VISIT TO SRI LANKA OF TWO SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS
DEVELOPED INTO A CAUSE CELEBRE SEPT. 3-5 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN DECLARED PNG FOR INTERFER-
ING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY AND ASKED TO LEAVE
WITHIN 24 HOURS. THE GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY RESCINDED ITS 24
HOUR DEPARTURE ORDER AND ALLOWED SOVIETS TO REMAIN UNTIL SEPT.
8. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS
WERE INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE INVITATION OF THE CEYLON WORKERS CONGRESS (CWC),
WHICH REPRESENTS PREDOMINANTLY INDIAN TAMIL TEA ESTATE WORKERS,
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ENVAR KAPBA, SECRETARY OF THE GEORGIAN REPUBLIC TRADE UNION
COUNCIL, AND KONSTANTIN TOUZIKOV, AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL UNION
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, ARRIVED IN SRI LANKA AUGUST
29 FOR A TEN DAY VISIT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE IN-
TELLIGENCE SERVICE DIVISION (ISD) PLACED THE TWO UNDER CLOSE
SURVEILLANCE, AND THE ISD REPORT ALLEGES THAT THEY HAVE HAD
TALKS WITH TAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT (TULF) SYMPATHIZERS

AT THE TEA ESTATES IN NUWARA ELIYA AND WITH CWC ORGANIZATIONS
IN KANDY.

3. ISD SURVEILLANCE REPORTEDLY WAS INITIATED BECAUSE TOUZIKOV
ON A PREVIOUS TWO-MAN VISIT HERE IN MAY-JUNE OF THIS YEAR
WAS WITH A VLADIMIR IGNATOV, LISTED IN BARRON'S BOOK ON THE
KGB AS HAVING BEEN A KGB AGENT IN LAOS FROM 1967-70. PRESS
ALSO NOTES THAT BARRON'S BOOK LISTS "CERTAIN NAMES OF PERSONS"
WHO NOW APPEAR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIPLOMATIC LIST AS
OFFICIALS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THE PRESS HAS TRIED TO
ESTABLISH A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RECENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE AND
THE SOVIET'S VISIT.

4. BOTH THE CWC AND TULF HAVE THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE
SOVIETS AS HAS THE SOVIET EMBASSY. A. AMIRTHALINGAM, LEADER
OF THE OPPOSITION TULF PARTY, DENIED ANY TULF CONNECTIONS WITH
THE SOVIETS. CWC GENERAL SECRETARY M.S. SELLASAMY RIDICULED
THE CHARGE THAT THE SOVIETS WERE BEHIND THE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE,
NOTING THAT THEY HAD ARRIVED AFTER THE VIOLENCE HAD ENDED.
SELLASAMY MAINTAINED THAT THE CWC IS IN CHARGE OF ALL ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THE SOVIETS AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEETINGS
WITH THE TULF. THE GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY STATED THAT IT
WOULD ALLOW THE TWO SOVIETS TO REMAIN UNTIL SEPT. 8.

5. PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STATED RATIONALE FOR ITS ACTION
WAS THAT THE SRI LANKA EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAD NOT ADHERED TO A
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DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE BANDARANAIKE GOVERNMENT THAT VISAS
NOT BE ISSUED TO TOUZIKOV OR IGNATOV BECAUSE OF THEIR EARLIER
ACTIVITIES UNTIL CLEARED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
IN JUNE AS A RESULT OF A SPATE OF ANTI-JAYEWARDENE ARTICLES
THAT APPEARED IN THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS WHICH EMPLOYED FORMER
EMPLOYEES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY, JAYEWARDENE HIMSELF WROTE
LETTERS TO BREZNEV AND KOSYGIN CHARGING SOVIET INTERFERENCE
IN SRI LANKA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
WRIGGINS

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